

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. HA-1739

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ORIGINAL FARMHOUSE OF ABERDEEN HILLS

and/or common "TIL COLE FARMHOUSE"

## 2. Location

street & number 318 Roberts Way    not for publicationcity, town ABERDEEN    vicinity of    congressional district 2nd election districtstate MARYLAND    county HARFORD

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture <u>  </u> museum
<u>  </u> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial <u>  </u> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment <u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government <u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial <u>  </u> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military <u>  </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Captain and Mrs..Keith and Lilly French

street & number 11428 105th Av., SW P-12    telephone no.:1-206-588-3222city, town TACOMA    state and zip code WASH., 98498

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. BEL AIR COURTHOUSE    liber 1033street & number OFFICE AND MAIN STREET    folio 1096city, town BEL AIR MARYLAND 21014    state

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date    federal    state    county    local

pository for survey records

city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. NA-037

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

2. Parlor and Dining Room- located on either side of foyer; both rooms have an original slate fireplace with engraved designs beneath the slate mantel. A dish-warming closet exists in the side wall above the dining room fireplace.
3. Large country kitchen contains a hidden closet (via trap-door entrance) with original acorn/heart cloak hooks still attached.
4. Servants Stairway - leads from kitchen to servant's bedchamber just above the kitchen.
5. Summer kitchen contains original columns(unrestored) and windows(unrestored) with hidden doorway to pantry; both adjoin main kitchen.
6. Basement contains root cellar.

### C. Interior - 2nd and 3rd Levels

1. Original Fireplace and mantel still exists in small bedroom; closed off heat vent still existing for reinsertion of grate.
2. Double finished attic, plus 3rd trap-door attic. Original hardwood floor, and traces of bordered wall paper still exist; original windows open from middle and outward toward the floor.
3. 3rd attic- entrance through main attic; construction design most visible here: mitered rafters and cut nails, exposure of framework with cut boards done by circular saw (see Jim Wollon's letter 6/8/82).

## 8. Significance

Survey No. NA-1739

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### Historical Significance Continued-

2. Acorn/Heart Cloak Hooks- symbols of strength and love; incidently, a large oak tree still grows in the back yard.
3. Fireplaces - the more ornately designed fireplace is located in the parlor, the most important room for receiving guests, and a place for evening family get togethers.
4. Ceramic/porcelain door knobs- color reveals social philosophy of "putting one's best foot forward". Ground level rooms have white showy knobs; upper level rooms have less attractive brown knobs.

II. Age- excludes 2 side additions built on by Lorraine Jackson's father; according to Ms. Jackson.

- A. Title Search
- B. Geneology tracing of James Cole dates of birth and death; to coincide with James Cole tombstone in "Abandoned Roberts Way Cemetery" listed in Mark Edwards' surveyed sites. letter of 3/23/82
- C. Lumber Construction in 3rd floor 3rd attic of 318 Roberts Way.
- D. Architecture

### III.. Conclusion

The house is presently surrounded by a community of well kept homes comprised of retired members who are equally proud of the significance of "the original farmhouse". It remains more valuable than any two dimensional portrait or picture of Victorian architecture. It is truly a living testimony of an era in history, dating back over 100 years ago that brings the past to our present day door step.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. NA-1739

"HISTORY OF ABERDEEN" by Richard P. Cronin, publ. by Bicentennial Comm. of Aberdeen, 1976 - (story of 118 Roberts Way begins with Swan House, Paradise Rd., Pg. 9)  
"OUR HARFORD HERITAGE" by C. Milton Wright, publ. French Bay Printing Co., 1980.  
"HARFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN" No 18, Spring Edition, 1983.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property one-tenth of an acre

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Lilly French; 3/28/83 Mrs. J. Ann Novotny 3-31-83organization \_\_\_\_\_ date July 12, 1983street & number 1424 Nabash Drive telephone 301-676-6169city or town Bel Air, Maryland state 21014

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
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<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This is a three-story Victorian home, believed to be the original farmhouse of Aberdeen Hills at an age of over 100+ years. The following gives a description with supportive resources of our home:

### Description:

#### I. Architectural Style - Victorian

- A. See xeroxed copy of similarly styled Victorian house, taken from The Victorian Home In America by John Maass, copy. 1972.
- B. See glossy photographs and slides of 318 Roberts Way; compare this original structural design with xeroxed copy mentioned above.

#### II. Specific Designs of 318 Roberts Way- original house rests on the original stone foundation.

##### A. Exterior Front

1. Arched upper window in center of pitched roof.
2. Original chimney is a chimney within a chimney; second original chimney to the right of the house no longer exists.
3. Front Porch (8'x34')
  - a. Note restored column mouldings, and hanging decor from beneath the roof.
  - b. Note the position of front porch facing the east; allows for cool relaxation after a hot summer day of farm work.
4. Entry Way- Front Door
  - a. Original turn-key door bell recessed in carved right window panel.
  - b. Transom window and two side windows within carved panels frame the original door and doorway.
  - c. Note that double arched shaped carving on door's interior matches arched exterior window at top of pitched roof. Note also an ornate metal rectangular key-hole on interior side of door.

##### B. Interior - Downstairs

1. Entry Way Foyer
  - a. Doors - some of the original interior doors possess the original mortised locks and porcelain knobs.
  - b. Doorways - all framed with original carved panels; windows framed the same.
  - c. Stairway and Banister - ornately carved panels line the side of stairway with matching design above the staircase. The end of the stair rail is scroll shaped with a center hole to receive a ruby or other gem, denoting complete ownership of the home when paid in full. The scroll sits atop an original cylindrical post.
  - d. Hardwood floors and stairs throughout original house.
  - e. High ceilings, typical of older homes are about 8 feet high.

# 8. Significance

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Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support. The following facts of this unique home should merit both preservation and restoration support: This Victorian home of 100+ years (see 1799 Hauducoeur map of Chesapeake Bay area) is still in good condition externally and internally; offers original architectural examples as such. It has been cited as being the original farmhouse of Aberdeen Hills. The original barn was torn down about the time new area homes were being constructed. (See eyewitness neighbor, Mary Hoffman at 321 Roberts Way. She remembers the barn's approximate location; also, see Lorraine Jackson, local Havre de Grace realtor (939-0607) who lived in the farmhouse while her contractor father built up the farmland with local homes). The original owner being a Mr. James Cole. (I was personally introduced to an elderly lady, a descendant of Mr. Cole's who said that she remembers her great-great uncle Cole building the house when she was a little girl; she remembers him speaking of Pres. Abraham Lincoln). Possible tangible reference to the Cole genealogy can be obtained from local Aberdeen lawyer, a Mr. J. Harlan Livezey who once told me that he has photograph records of the Abandoned Roberts Way Cemetery. (See lawyer referral list) He has a hobby of doing geneology research. Finally, Mr. James Cole's tombstone(undated) lies in the Abandoned Roberts Way Cemetery, just 4 house lots down from the farmhouse. (see map plus letter of Mark Edwards, 3/23/82). The agricultural history of Aberdeen began and existed in this very location where farming land once flourished within the vicinity of the farmhouse. More recently, (June, 1980) my husband and I were awarded the Aberdeen Appearance and Preservation Award for the many efforts taken to restore the home. (See xeroxed copy of award enclosed). Subsequently, I have also pursued local and state information leading to this home's listing for the historical registers.

## Historical Significance -

### I. Architecture

- A. Exterior - well preserved example of Victorian Architecture
- B. Interior Decor

1. Detailed molding outlining windows and doors; carved panels on doors and doorway; carved designs lining stairway; chair railing attached to dining room walls; hardwood floors throughout; all revealing quality and "pride of ownership" indicative of our forefathers.



HA-~~1746~~ 1739

COLE FARMHOUSE

Photographer: Kevin Allen





HA-1746 1739

COLE FARMHOUSE

Photographer: Kevin Allen

IMPACT IMAGES  
BY KEVIN ALLEN  
Wedding - Portrait & Sports  
(301) 836-8242



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